

January 24, 1963

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Dear John:

You continue to reinforce my remark, ~~how~~ two random arrays can succeed in generating parallel lines.

About the Ciba paper-- I am afraid it will have some general circulation: Ciba intends to publish the symposium as a paper-back book in the U.S. Meanwhile I have sent an abstract of the esobiology (euphenics) part to NATURE. So much of this goes back to Huxley - Brave New World, which I must have read at age 9 or 10 when I was perhaps too impressionable; I went back to this last night, and also to BNW-Revisited. This is a fine book, but I was amused that euphenics was the one development that Huxley now wanted to put out of mind "for a long time to come"! Kingsley Amis (in a delightful and thoughtful critique of science fiction, New Maps of Hell) also remarks that the concept of human nature is the one invariant in all the imaginative fantasy about the human environment; and he gives some interesting suggestions why.

J.R. Platt

About plans for a conjunction -- I will look forward to seeing you here at the Quantum Poly- meeting; perhaps it would be helpful if you could be persuaded to stay over for, say, a week of preliminary discussion then-- but I see I have confused the dates and that would be difficult for you. Let's put it this way! a week (even 3 or 4 days) almost anytime this spring could be useful; from your own standpoint, too bad if this can't about the Quantum trip. Then by all means plan to spend the summer here. I will be away a while in June; otherwise plan to spend the summer: what better place than Palo Alto!

We have been doing some ~~working~~ on motion-detecting (frame-differencing) video devices, and the point seems inescapable that the eye does this too, especially for fixation, right in line with your proposals. Do you know whether the loss of perception that results from retinal fixation is restored by pulsed illumination?

An exhaustive metro-nomy might be tedious, unless this means a logically exhaustive system. I am certain you can be of immense help to us on this, and look forward to the occasion.

Sincerely,